

## SMALLBURGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1936.

SECTION A.

Area of District in acres	...	...	...	70,017
Population (1931 Census)	...	...	...	15,690
Population (1936, estimated)	...	...	...	15,920
Structurally separate dwellings (1931 Census)—Occupied				4,376
			Unoccupied	433
Rateable Value, £57,272,			Penny Rate (estimated)	£216 - 15 - 4

		TOTAL	M.	F.
LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	206	105	101
	Illegitimate	9	5	4
	Total	215	110	105

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13'50.

STILL BIRTHS	Legitimate	5	2	3
	Illegitimate	1		1
	Total	6	2	4

STILLBIRTH RATE per 1,000 total births, 27'15.

DEATHS	185	88	97
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DEATH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 11'62.

Deaths from PUERPERAL CAUSES :—Puerperal Sepsis	0
Other Puerperal Causes	2
Total	2

RATE per 1,000 total Live and Still Births, 9'05.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—

	Legitimate	11	5	6
	Illegitimate	2	2	
	Total	13	7	6

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	60'46
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	53'39
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	222'22

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	21
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

		TOTAL	M.	F.
Whooping Cough	...	1	—	1
Influenza	...	1	—	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	6	5	1
Other Tuberculosis	...	1	1	—
G.P.I., Tabes, etc.	...	1	1	—
Cancer	...	21	10	11
Diabetes	...	7	2	5
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	..	16	10	6
Heart Disease	...	29	11	18
Other Circulatory Disease	...	10	5	5
Bronchitis	...	13	8	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	12	6	6
Other Respiratory Disease	...	2	1	1
Peptic Ulcer	...	1	1	—
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	1	—	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	1	1	—
Other Liver Disease	...	1	—	1
Other Digestive Disease	...	1	—	1
Nephritis	...	10	3	7
Puerperal Disease other than Sepsis	...	2	—	2
Congenital Debility, prematurity	...	7	3	4
Senility	...	18	7	11
Suicide	...	1	—	1
Other Violence	...	7	3	4
Other defined Diseases	...	13	9	4
Ill-defined or not known	...	2	1	1

**S.D.55.**

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality,  
Maternal Death-rates, in the year 1936.

England and Wales, London, 122 Great Towns  
and 143 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales	122 County Boro's. and Great Towns including London	143 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
Rates per 1,000 population.				
<b>BIRTHS—</b>				
Live ... ..	14·8	14·9	15·0	13·6
Still ... ..	0·61	0·67	0·64	0·53
<b>DEATHS—</b>				
All Causes ... ..	12·1	12·3	11·5	12·5
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ... ..	0·01	0·01	0·00	0·01
Small-pox ... ..	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	0·07	0·09	0·04	0·14
Scarlet Fever ... ..	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01
Whooping Cough ... ..	0·05	0·06	0·04	0·06
Diphtheria ... ..	0·07	0·08	0·05	0·05
Influenza ... ..	0·14	0·14	0·15	0·14
Violence ... ..	0·52	0·45	0·39	0·52
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age ... ..	59	63	55	66
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ... ..	5·9	8·2	3·4	14·4
<b>MATERNAL MORTALITY--</b>				
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	1·40	Not available		
Others ... ..	2·41			
Total ... ..	3·81			
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still).				
<b>MATERNAL MORTALITY—</b>				
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	1·34	Not available		
Others ... ..	2·31			
Total ... ..	3·65			
<b>NOTIFICATIONS—</b>				
Puerperal Fever ... ..	3·27	3·46	2·80	3·03
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	9·64	9·52	7·57	11·15

## SECTION B.

### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICT.

D. G. SHIELDS, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

A. L. TAUNTON, C.R.S.I., SANITARY INSPECTOR.

### Laboratory Facilities. Norfolk County Laboratory.

**Ambulance Services** are obtained from British Red Cross Society at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, North Walsham, and Great Yarmouth Hospital, and have been found adequate for the requirements of the District.

### Nursing in the Home.

- District Nurses of Norfolk Nursing Federation.
- Private hire in infectious diseases.

### Clinics and Treatment Centres. None in District.

**Hospitals.** Norfolk and Norwich, Jenny Lind (children), Great Yarmouth, and North Walsham Hospitals, and Coltishall Nursing Home all take cases from the area. At present, pending the completion of the County Isolation Hospital, infectious cases are sent to the Norwich City Infectious Disease Hospital when circumstances make this desirable.

## SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### 1. Water Supplies.

- There has been no shortage of water in this district during the past year, and I am pleased to report that in many cases where the level of water in wells had become low, this has now been made good by the welcome rainfall.

Two new semi-public water supply undertakings have been completed during the year, and the supplies have been approved by the Public Analyst. Although it must be an improvement on existing conditions to have one deep tube well supplying an estate of say 40 to 50 bungalows instead of each individual owner sinking his own shallow well, the legal position is rather obscure should the owner of the supply refuse to continue to supply or the undertaking be closed down as unprofitable. 47 samples of well water were submitted to the Public Analyst from individual wells during the year, and of these 12 were found not to be satisfactory, and appropriate action was taken by the Local Authority.



In addition to the above-mentioned, 42 samples of well water were taken from premises situate in or near The Street, Stalham, and of these 30 were found to be of poor quality or impure. The Local Authority have instructed a qualified engineer to prepare a scheme for a water supply undertaking for the Parish of Stalham; this scheme, which is now in course of preparation, forms the subject of an impending enquiry by the Ministry of Health, and until the result of this enquiry is published further comment would be invidious.

(11) **Drainage and Sewerage.**

Complaints have been received as to the condition of the drains and sewers in the Parish of Stalham, and this matter has been duly considered by the Local Authority who have ascertained the cost of carrying out the necessary work, and it has been decided to leave this matter in abeyance for the time being.

**2. Rivers and Streams.**

The County Medical Officer of Health has reported that he has received further complaints of pollution of certain rivers in this area, and steps are being taken to provide refuse bins and suitable dumping places where the refuse may be collected and properly disposed of.

When one considers that approximately 50% of the pleasure boats have water closets installed that discharge directly into the water, it is obvious that pollution must take place, and that to collect a few tins or papers from the banks of the rivers is only touching the fringe of the trouble.

All possible steps are taken to prevent surface pollution near to the intake of the Great Yarmouth Waterworks Company situate on the river Bure, and during the past year only one complaint has been received from the Waterworks Inspector, and in this case suitable action was taken and the nuisance abated.

**3. Closet Accommodation.**

- (i) In the past year 9 vault closets were found during routine inspection, and in each case these were converted to pail closets and solid cement floors laid down.

Very few of these old insanitary closets are now in existence, but occasionally they are found on farm premises for the use of the farm labourers.

It has been noticed during the year that many of the so called chemical closets are only chemical closets while the initial supply of chemical liquid is in use. After this supply has been exhausted the closet is then used as an ordinary pail closet and in my opinion these can be more offensive than the old type closet.

- (ii) Only one public scavenging scheme—that for the Parish of Stalham is in operation in the district. The Stalham scheme has worked well and very few complaints have been received.

I am of the opinion that scavenging schemes are required for several of our coastal parishes and also for the parishes of Horning and Hoveton.

In Hoveton scavenging is carried out by a person from the adjoining district, but this is not satisfactory in as much as only the people who can pay have their refuse removed.

- (iii) **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

In addition to the usual inspection of the Area a total of over 3,000 dwellings were inspected under the Overcrowding Regulations, this work being carried out by two temporary inspectors who had instructions to report to the Sanitary Inspector any defects noticed. Records of these inspections have been made and action taken to remedy the defects.

As the need for additional cottages is still very great the Local Authority have decided to erect a certain number of cottages which will be unsubsidised and it is hoped to start on this work early in the new year.

- (iv) **Smoke Abatement.**

There have been no complaints of nuisance caused by smoke during the past year.

**4. Schools.**

A total of 30 inspections have been made to the schools in the district, and at each inspection the premises were found to be clean, structurally good and the sanitary accommodation sufficient.

The water supply has been excellent in each case and no complaint has been received.

**SECTION D. HOUSING.**

**1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.**

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects				
	(under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	984
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	223

(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations	...	...	...	...	429
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	164
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	14
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	51

## 2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	40
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## 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

### (a) Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act 1930

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	7
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit by the owners after service of formal notices	...	...	...	...	7

### (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	...	...	...	...	Nil

### (c) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act 1930.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	12
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	3

### (d) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act 1930.

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2)	Number determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	Nil

## SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### (a) Milk Supply.

The total number of Cowkeepers, Dairymen and Retailers is 159.

Inspections of Cowkeepers	...	...	...	...	241
Inspections of Dairymen	...	...	...	...	158
Inspections of Retailers	...	...	...	...	68

No complaints have been received during the year respecting the quality or cleanliness of any milk produced in this district, and no proceedings have been taken against any cowkeeper, dairyman or retailer.

27 persons are now licensed to produce Grade "A" Milk, and 4 persons are licensed to retail this milk

### (b) Meat and other Foods. Slaughterhouses.

The number of slaughterhouses is as follows:

Registered	...	...	...	...	...	19
Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	7

A total of 132 inspections were carried out by myself and the Inspector, and with the exception of one registered slaughterhouse the premises were found to be reasonably clean and structurally in good order. The one registered slaughterhouse found not to be satisfactory is very old and unsuitable and the owner is being approached to provide a new building or to reconstruct the existing one.

The number of licensed slaughtermen is now 45.



### **Condemned Meat.**

Amount of Meat condemned :

Beasts (including calves)	...	...	...	...	1
Sheep	...	...	...	...	Nil
Pigs	...	...	...	...	1
and approximately 72lbs. of beef and 40lbs. of pork.					
Number of premises with refrigerating plant for storing Meat	...	...	...	...	10

### **Knackers' Yards.**

There is still only one Knacker's Yard in the District, and this has not been used during the past year. It is in fair structural condition and does not need whitening.

#### **(c) Adulteration of Foods (Inspection and Analysis).**

The duties in connection with this are carried out by the Norfolk County Council.

#### **(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**

This is carried out by the Norfolk County Council.

### **Unhealthy Areas.**

There are no unhealthy areas in the District.

### **Bye-laws relating to Houses.**

The Council have the following bye-laws in force :

Tents, Vans and Sheds approved 9th October 1936.

New Buildings and Certain Matters in connection with Existing Buildings approved 9th October 1936.

Section 27, comprised in Part 11 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 is in force in certain parishes.

Note—Under the County of Norfolk Review Order, the Bye-laws for tents, vans and sheds and new buildings lapsed, but as stated above the model bye-laws of the Ministry of Health in connection with these matters were approved on the 9th October 1936.

### **Sanitary Inspection, etc.**

From time to time reports have been submitted to the Local Authority respecting unfit cottages and suitable action has been taken.

I have found that it is impossible to lay down a definite standard to determine whether a house is fit or unfit. Much depends on the tenant and the number of persons that may occupy any particular dwelling, and it has also been noticed that the housing standard varies according to the type of parish. That is to say that a dwelling in a rural parish is usually on a slightly lower standard than a dwelling in a semi-urban parish.

Inspection has been made of housing conditions in the five additional parishes which became part of this area on the 1st April 1935 and records of these inspections are being made.

### **Nuisances.**

The number of nuisances reported to the Medical Officer of Health or Sanitary Inspector was 47, and these were as follows :

Broken or blocked drains	...	...	...	...	3
Cesspools requiring cleansing	...	...	...	...	1
Dampness in (a) External walls	...	...	...	...	9
(b) Internal walls	...	...	...	...	1
Defective gutters and down spouts	...	...	...	...	3
„ thatched roofs	...	...	...	...	13
„ tiled roofs	...	...	...	...	8
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	6
Windows in poor state of repair	...	...	...	...	3

In each case the nuisances were investigated and appropriate action taken.

### **Overcrowding.**

The Local Authority decided to make a full inspection of the Area for cases of overcrowding, and to carry out this inspection two additional temporary inspectors were employed. The total number of dwellings found to be overcrowded under the Act is not yet known, it having been found that certain cottages were overlooked during the inspection but it is believed that the number of cottages overcrowded is approximately 69.

To abate this overcrowding a scheme of rehousing has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health and it is hoped to begin building operations at an early date.

**Housing Return for the year.**

The number of new dwelling-houses erected during the year with State assistance under the Housing Acts, is as follows :

(a) By the Local Authority					
Cottages (non-parlour)	...	...	...	...	16
Bungalows	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) By private enterprise					
	...	...	...	...	Nil

**Parishes in which New Houses have been erected during 1936.**

(a) By the Local Authority			(b) By other bodies or persons		
Parish	Number		Parish	Number	
Horsey	...	2	Bacton	...	10
Sutton	...	4	Barton Turf	...	1
Swafeld	...	6	Catfield	...	3
Worstead	...	4	Happisburgh	...	18
		16	Hempstead	...	4
			Hickling	...	2
			Horning	...	7
			Hoveton	...	13
			Ludham	...	1
			Palling	...	1
			Paston	...	2
			Potter Heigham...	...	3
			Stalham	...	3
			Sutton	...	2
			Swafeld	...	1
			Trunch	...	3
					74

**Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926.**

Number of cottages reconstructed during the year	...	...	...	6
Total number of cottages reconstructed to date	...	...	...	86

**Parishes where Cottages have been reconstructed under this Act.**

Ingham	...	4	Stalham	...	2
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**Applications received under this Act.**

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Number of Houses</u>	<u>Purpose of Application</u>	<u>Decision of the District Council</u>
Happisburgh	2	To convert farmhouse into two cottages	Grant of £120 offered but refused
Neatishead	1	Grant for reconditioning	Grant of £80 offered
Sutton	1	Grant for reconditioning	Grant of £80 offered

It is to be regretted that so few applications have been received for assistance under this Act, as the Local Authority have made it widely known that they are willing to give favourable consideration to all applications received for assistance.

I am pleased to inform the Local Authority that they have assisted in the reconstruction of more cottages than any other area in the County of Norfolk, and that they have been praised by the County M.O.H. for the work they have done under this Act.

**Factories, Workshops and Workplaecs.**

Two complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories with regard to want of cleanliness. These matters were investigated by the Sanitary Inspector, and suitable action taken, and the complaints were remedied.

A total of 62 inspections were made by myself and the Sanitary Inspector during the past year of factories, workshops and workplaces and no defects were noticed.

During our inspections the sanitary accommodation has been carefully seen to, especially in places where young persons are employed. The industries carried on are generally boatbuilding and the buildings are all of a modern type, well ventilated and spacious.



Inspections of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories	11	1	Nil
Workshops	52	Nil	Nil
Workplaces	7	Nil	Nil
	70	1	Nil

Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	2	2
Insufficient closet accommodation	Nil	Nil

Bakehouses.

The number of bakehouses in the area is 9 and these are all of brick and tile construction, and in fair condition.

There are no underground or semi-underground bakehouses. One complaint was received from H.M. Inspector of Factories with reference to whitening of one bakehouse and in this case the occupier was seen and the bakehouse cleansed and whitened. 37 inspections have been made during the year.

Disinfection.

This is carried out by spraying and formaldehyde lamps, and in all cases has been satisfactory.

Disinfections are as follows :

Following cases of fever	...	...	...	..	52 rooms
After death from cancer	...	...	...	...	6 rooms
After other deaths	...	...	...	...	7 rooms
Verminous rooms	...	...	...	...	2 rooms

In certain cases a small charge is made to cover expenses.

Tents and Vans.

There has been a small increase in the number of van-dwellers seen in this district during the past 12 months, but the Sanitary Inspector informs me that he has experienced no difficulty in dealing with these people. No case of infectious disease has been notified and no nuisance has been caused.

SECTION F.

Infectious Diseases.

19 cases of notifiable infectious disease (other than tuberculosis) were reported during 1936. They were :

	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total deaths
Scarlet Fever	7	1	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Pneumonia	6	—	2
Erysipelas	4	—	—

I have reason to suppose that a considerable number of cases of pneumonia occur which are never notified to me. It is noteworthy that the Registrar-General's statistics record 12 deaths from pneumonia as having occurred in the district, whereas only 6 cases (with 2 fatalities) were notified ; on this basis, it is possible that about 30 cases of pneumonia went un-notified. The Council might like to consider the desirabilty of circularising the medical practitioners in the district, reminding them of their duty to notify cases of pneumonia.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases during 1936						Deaths during 1936					
	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		Totals		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		Totals
	Males	Females	Males	Females			Males	Females	Males	Females	
Aged under 1	—	—	1	—	1	Aged under 1	—	—	1	—	1
" 1 to 5	—	—	2	—	2	" 1 to 5	—	—	—	—	—
" 5 to 15	—	—	2	4	6	" 5 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
" 15 to 25	2	—	1	1	4	" 15 to 25	—	—	—	—	—
" 25 to 35	1	1	1	2	5	" 25 to 35	2	—	—	—	2
" 35 to 45	1	1	1	0	3	" 35 to 45	—	1	—	—	1
" 45 to 55	1	—	—	1	2	" 45 to 55	—	—	—	—	—
" 55 to 65	—	—	—	1	1	" 55 to 65	2	—	—	—	2
" over 65	—	1	—	—	1	" over 65	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	5	3	8	9	25	TOTAL	4	1	1	—	6

## **General.**

I feel it my duty to inform the Council that the work of the Public Health Department is steadily increasing. It seems that the time of the Sanitary Inspector is now being largely taken up by the routine collection of milk and other samples, and it therefore follows that he is unable to devote as much time as I should like to more important work. I feel the time has come when a permanent assistant should be provided for the Inspector, and I trust that the Council will consider this matter.

The housing situation is unfortunately still very acute; the Council are to be congratulated on the fact that they are considering the erection of non-subsidised cottages, knowing as they do that the rental to be expected from these will not cover working expenses.

In concluding this Report, may I say that the Sanitary Inspector has carried out his difficult duties very tactfully and appears to have given satisfaction to everyone.

**D. G. SHIELDS,**

*Medical Officer of Health.*

**A. L. TAUNTON,**

*Sanitary Inspector.*

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
SMALLBURGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

*May, 1937.*